

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 06795 052004Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6795

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR NATO

SUBJ: EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING DECEMBER 9, 1974

1. ON DECEMBER 4, USNATO DEFAD (LEGERE) CALLED ON NORWEIGIAN DEFAD (LEINE) TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING DECEMBER 9. DURING DISCUSSION, THREE ITEMS OF INTEREST EMERGED CONCERNING: (1) MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, (2) HOPED-FOR STATEMENT BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, AND (3) GREEK AND FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARD EUROGROUP.

2. MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. EUROGROUP MINISTERS WILL DISCUSS MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE IN RESTRICTED SESSION.

3. STATEMENT BY SECDEF. REFERRING TO ASD ELLSWORTH'S STATEMENT AT JUNE 74 DPC MINISTERIAL DURING DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF EUROGROUP, LEINE SAID EUROGROUP WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE A SIMILAR STATEMENT OF APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT OF EUROGROUP'S ACTIVITIES BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. FYI. FOLLOWING IS ASD ELLSWORTH'S STATEMENT AS RECORDED IN VERBATIM CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 06795 052004Z

RECORD OF JUNE 1974 MINISTERIAL MEETING: QUOTE "THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN JUST TO SAY VERY BRIEFLY THAT I LIKED THE REPORT GIVEN BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROGROUP. I WANT TO SAY, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE REQUESTED A REACTION, THAT THE UNITED STATES WHOLE-

HEARTEDLY ENDORSES THE EUROGROUP'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE CO-OPERATION IN ARMS PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE." UNQUOTE.

4. GREECE AND FRANCE. LEINE SAID GREECE STILL PARTICIPATES IN EUROGROUP ACTIVITIES, BUT OBJECTS TO ANY STATEMENTS IN EUROGROUP REPORTS WHICH IMPLY THAT GREECE IS PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH ALLIANCE INTEGRATED DEFENSE, E.G., MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. OTHER EUROGROUP MEMBERS DO NOT WANT TO COUCH LANGUAGE IN FASHION WHICH WOULD INDICATE GREECE HAD EXCLUDED ITSELF FROM CERTAIN EUROGROUP ACTIVITIES. AS REGARDS POSSIBLE FRENCH MEMBERSHIP IN EUROGROUP IN FUTURE, LEINE EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT FRENCH WOULD JOIN EUROGROUP ONLY IF FRANCE HAD FIRST DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN ALLIANCE INTEGRATED DEFENSE. EUROGROUP STAFF GROUP SECRETARY (LEDLIE-UK NATO), WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT DURING DISCUSSION ADDED THAT FRENCH LOOK UPON EUROGROUP AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF TROJAN HORSE DEvised BY AMERICANS TO SERVE AMERICAN INTERESTS. BRUCE

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